

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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*Clinical Microbiology and Infection* has been guided through its initial period of activity by Professor Jacques Acar and Professor Ian Phillips, who took the first and most difficult steps in creating the independent Journal of our Society. Their commendable work deserves our profound gratitude and respect.

The period about to begin brings new challenges and objectives which, we hope, will lead to a further expansion of the Journal and the achievement of additional goals. We must remember that ESCMID is a scientific and professional society that brings together those involved in the diagnosis, management and prevention of infection, from clinical and diagnostic research scientists to clinicians in daily practice. Our membership and readership, which span several continents, have different concerns, different resources, different work environments and different areas of interest. The principal aim of CMI is to include material from which all of these professionals will profit, and the future of CMI depends upon the convergence of these diverse tendencies and interests.

For these reasons, and according to the recommendations of the Executive Committees of ESCMID and CMI, we feel that the content of the Journal must be distributed equally among three broad areas: Basic Science, Diagnostic Microbiology and Clinical Infectious Diseases. We will welcome the best original material that we are able to attract, and will also include editorials, reviews and material aimed at providing our readership with continuous education. In addition to these traditional sections, we plan to develop new categories such as 'Updates', 'In Search of Opinion', 'Diagnosis at First Glance' and 'Clinical Microbiological Cases', which we hope will be of interest to the majority and particularly to those in training. All sections will be considered 'open', meaning that anyone may contribute material and no section will be restricted to commissioned material. In this way, we hope to make information easily accessible for readers and to make it possible for submitting authors to find the appropriate forum for presenting their ideas and opinions.

One of the main objectives of the new team is to expedite manuscript revision and processing. The Madrid and Paris offices promise to acknowledge receipt of manuscripts within 15 days and to offer a preliminary opinion regarding the viability of manuscripts within 8 weeks. With this in mind, we have increased the number of reviewers per contribution and hope that electronic mail will be the medium of choice when possible, thereby allowing immediate transmission of correspondence and scientific material.

The present structure of contributors and collaborators will remain unchanged, although we hope to extend the base of professionals willing to advise the Journal scientifically and in all aspects that will help promote its objectives. The Madrid Office includes, in addition to myself, three Deputy Editors (Roberto Alonso, Emilia Cercenado and Patricia Muñoz), representing the three main areas of interest of the Journal, and an Editorial Assistant (RocRo Fernández). We are most fortunate to continue being able to rely on Judith Crane as Editorial Managing Consultant in the Paris Office. Unquestionably, the Referees and Editors are CMI's main asset. Their expert opinion and advice are crucial in maintaining the quality of published material. Those wishing to participate in the process of peer review who have not yet been included are encouraged to contact us and join our team.

Finally, mention must be made of two outstanding challenges for the Journal during the next five years: the inclusion of CMI in *Index Medicus* to complement its status in *Current Contents*, and its wide diffusion on the Internet, which will allow more rapid access to the material we are publishing. Both tasks will require the guidance and expertise of our new publishing team at Blackwell Science and, of course, the continuing support of our predecessors and permanent advisers, Jacques Acar and Ian Phillips.

It only remains to say that actions speak louder than words. I therefore invite all members of ESCMID, our readers and subscribers, and all those for whom the words 'Microbiology' and 'Infectious Disease' represent a challenge to join us in this exciting new stage of *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*.

Professor Emilio Bouza  
Editor-in-Chief of CMI,  
on behalf of the Madrid and Paris team